In the claims:

All of the claims standing for examination are presented below with appropriate status indication.

1-28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently amended) A system for authenticating a user of a network, comprising:

a network an Internet -connected verification server for performing the authentication; and

a network an Internet -connected appliance operable by the user for sending a request for authentication;

wherein the user specifies at least one network destination site on the Internet known to the user as capable of accepting the user's username-password pair included in the request for authentication and a username-password pair for the user, and the server, in response to the request, causes automatic navigation to the at least one site and attempts a login on behalf of the user with the username-password pair, successful login comprising allowing authentication of the user.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[30]] 29 wherein the verification server is a first server, and the request is sent from the appliance to a second server on the Internet network, which forwards at least a portion of the request to the first server, and the first server returns an indication of verification after causing the navigation and log-in attempt to the site provided by the user.

32. (Previously presented) The system of claim 29 wherein all or a portion of the request is compared against stored user profile data for verification purposes.

33. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[30]] 29 wherein the request comprises a plurality of user specified network destination sites and user-name-password pairs for the sites, and authentication is a number based on log-in results.

34. (Currently amended) A method for authenticating a user of a network, comprising steps of:

      (a) accepting by a server an authentication request from the user comprising at least one Internet network destination site known to the user as capable of accepting the user's username-password pair and the username-password pair is included in the authentication request from the user;

      (b) causing, by the server, automatic navigation to the at least one site and [[a]] an automatic login attempt on behalf of the user with the username-password pair; and

      (c) reporting an indication of authenticity according to success or failure of the login attempt.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34 wherein the server is a first server, and the request is sent from the appliance to a second server on the network, which forwards at least a portion of the request to the first server, and the first server returns the indication of authenticity after causing the navigation and log-in attempt at the site provided by the user.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34 wherein all or a portion of the request is compared against stored user profile data for verification purposes.

38. (Currently amended) The method of claim 34 wherein the request comprises a plurality of user specified Internet sites and username-password pairs for the sites, and authentication is a number based on log-in results.